

SALT TIMES



May 2004

Sheriff Garry E. Lucas

Fraud Fighters Program

Do you want to learn what you can do to protect yourself and the people you care about from becoming a victim?

On **Saturday, May 22**, from **9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, AARP, the WA State Attorney General's Office, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) will team up with local law enforcement and other community agencies as part of a statewide campaign to combat

consumer fraud.

The **free public event** will be held at the Luepke Center located at 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd in Vancouver.

Participants will learn about some of the most popular methods of defrauding seniors, including sweepstakes fraud, investment scams, internet scams, identity theft, living trust scams, foreign lotteries and charity scams.

Participants will receive free box lunches, Fraud Fighter handbooks, information on who is victimized in

Washington State, and a Fraud Fighter gold pin and speaker's kit for those who offer to help educate their friends and relatives about fraud.

All ages are welcome, *but space is limited!*

Call RSVP at (360) 696-8221 to reserve a seat or for more information.

You can also visit AARP's website at www.aarp.org/wa.

Senior Scam Alert!

The Phoenix Police Department recently made arrests in an Identity Theft Ring after executing search warrants at three residences. Calls were being made to the elderly from these locations selling Identity Theft Kits.

All the elderly person had to do was give their bank account number and they were guaranteed to be "ID Theft free." What really happened was the elderly person's bank account was emptied.



Any Identity Theft Prevention Kit sold over the phone that requires you to give your bank account number is a scam!

I Was In A Collision!

Now What Do I Do?



Here is a guide to help get you through...

Older adult drivers tend to drive when conditions are the safest. They are less likely to drink and drive and more likely to wear their seatbelts. However, statistics show that older drivers are more likely than younger ones to be involved in multi-vehicle crashes, particularly at intersections.

Knowing what to do after an accident can help make the experience a little less frightening and possibly help you avoid any further inconveniences or complications. So, here are some questions and answers that may help in case you are involved in a collision.

Q. What do I do if I am involved in a vehicle collision?

A. First of all, move your vehicle out of traffic if you are able to. If your collision involves damage to vehicles, injury or death to persons, and has happened on a public road, you are required to exchange the following information.

- Operator name
- Address and phone number
- Insurance company and policy number

- Vehicle license plate number.

Write down names and addresses of anyone who may have been a witness and it's a good idea to make notes of specific damages to all vehicles and any other important details regarding the collision.

You are required to show your driver's license to any person struck or injured, or to the driver or any occupant of, or any person attending any such vehicle collided with. The law also requires you to render reasonable assistance to any person injured.

The police will respond to collisions based on the severity of the collision and priority of pending calls. Injury collisions should always have a police response.

Be sure to contact your insurance company.

Q. Do I have to file a vehicle collision report?

A. If there are any injuries or damage to vehicles that exceeds \$700.00, you are

required to file a state accident report. If an officer takes a report, you are not required to, but may do so if you want to. A report is not required if the collision occurred on private property (but you still must exchange information.)

Q. Where can I get a vehicle collision report form?

A. All state patrol, police stations and sheriff's office precincts have the forms. You will need to locate the closest office to you and check the hours available to pick up the form. The report has to be mailed, so it's best to fill the form out at home. You are required to send in the report form within 4 days of the collision.

If an officer took a report and you would like a copy, contact the records department of the agency that took the report. In most cases, there is no fee.

Q. Will my insurance go up even if I was not at fault?

A. That depends on your insurance company. You will need to contact them.

How would you like to refresh your driving skills and possibly reduce your auto insurance premiums?

The AARP Driver Safety Program offers classes to members as well as non-members, specifically designed for the driver age 50 and over.

In just 2 days, you will learn about:

- * **Vision and hearing changes**
- * **Effects of medication**
- * **Reaction time changes**
- * **New laws**
- * **Hazardous driving situations**

To find a class near you, call
1-888-AARP-NOW
(1-888-227-7669)

Class size is limited so you must pre-register by calling the listed phone number.

"It heartens me to think of Verdi who composed thundering operas in his eighties, Michelangelo who did fine work in his ninetieth year, and Titian who painted better than ever in his one hundredth."

-James Michener



Crime Stats

In 2003, these were the top 6 crimes committed in Clark County against seniors (over 50 years of age.)

The number in parentheses represents how many times the crime was committed. The percentage rate refers to the percent of cases that were cleared.

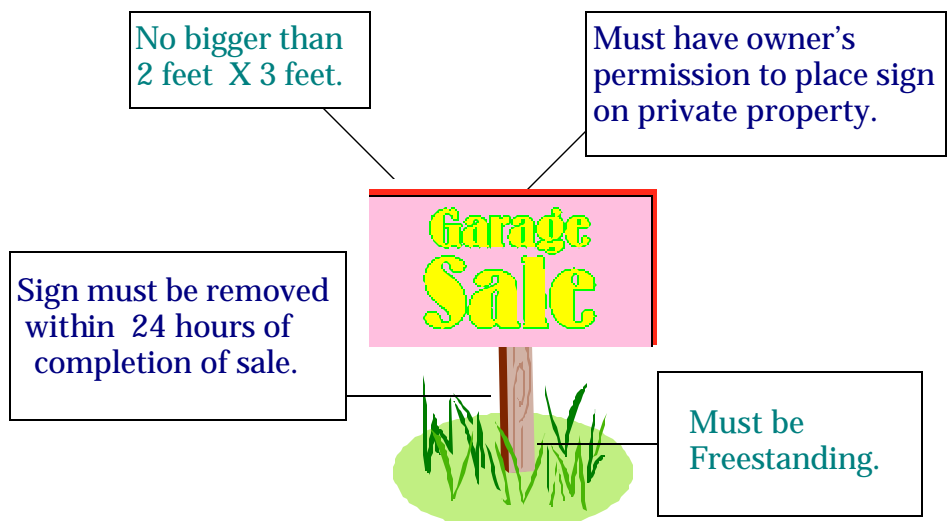
1. **Theft (737)** 18%
2. **Burglary (381)** 14%
3. **Malicious Mischief (275)** 17%
4. **Vehicle Prowl (216)** 7%
5. **Auto Theft (158)** 25%
6. **Fraud (145)** 17%



"Be Aware So You Don't Have To Be Afraid"

Planning a garage sale?

If Spring cleaning has coerced you into having a garage sale, there are a few County ordinances you should be familiar with regarding signs:



Civil penalties start at \$100 per day for sign violations.
County Code 32.04.050

Clark County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 410
Vancouver, WA 98666

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Crime Scene Investigation

Do you watch C.S.I.? Are you fascinated by forensics? Then you won't want to miss the May S.A.L.T. meeting! Come find out first hand from Clark County Homicide Detectives, what *really* happens during the process of solving a crime.



Detective Cindy Bull

West S.A.L.T. Meeting

May 17th at 11:00 a.m.
40 and 8 Community Room
7607 NE 26th Avenue
Vancouver, WA (Hazel Dell)



East S.A.L.T. Meeting

May 24th at 11:00 a.m.
Camas Police Department
2100 NE 3rd Avenue
Camas, WA



Detective Randon Walker

Meetings are free and
open to all seniors.